

Message Text

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S/NM FOR VANCE; AID/SER/INC FOR WAMPLER; DEA FOR EOI CUSACK
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SUBJECT TRNG OF CETENAL TECHNICIANS

REF: STATE 82797; DUGSTAD/ALBERTI/BERNAL TELECON, AP 12.

BERNAL/SCHLESINGER TELECON AP 13.

1. SUMMARY: TRAINING OF CETENAL TECHNICIANS, INSTALLATION
OF SPLIT VERTICAL MOUNTS, AND PRELIMINARY TESTING TO
INCREASE COVERAGE WILL REQUIRE AN ESTIMATED EXTENSION OF
SPECTRAL DATA CORPORATION(SDC) CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR AN
ADDITIONAL 45 DAYS. SENIOR STAFF MEMBER SOLIS AFFIRMS THE
AG OFFICE INTENDS TO CONTINUE USE OF THE PRESENT REMOTE
SENSING SYSTEM (MOPSS) ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE ITS LIMITATIONS
DUE IN PART TO INEFFECTIVE USE BY THEIR FIELD PERSONNEL.
SOLIS UNDERSCORES IT WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH
GOVERNMENTS TO EXPLORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM WITH
THE CAPABILITY TO COVER EXTENSIVE AREA (624,000 SQ KMS)
WITH AN INTEGRAL MEMORY SYSTEM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ACCURATE
FIX ON THE TOTAL PRODUCTION OF OPIATES IN MEXICO. STEERING
COMMITTEE PROPOSES THAT S/NM EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF
OBTAINING MOST QUALIFIED EXPERTISE AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT AN
OBJECTIVE DISINTERESTED THIRD PARTY EVALUATION OF PRESENT
MOPSS AND INITIATE, IF NEEDED, THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME TYPE
OF ELECTRONIC SENSING SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE MORE RESPONSIVE

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NOT ONLY TO THE MEXICAN REQUIREMENTS BUT OTHER OPIATE PRO-

DUCING COUNTRIES AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE PERCEIVES THAT PRESENT AG ATTITUDES AT THE EXECUTIVE LEVEL ON THE MOPSS CAPABILITY ARE DIVIDED IN TWO CATEGORIES. DR GERTZ MADE AN ABRUPT NEGATIVE DECISION ON MOPSS WHEN HE WAS NAMED THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND NARCOTICS COORDINATOR IN NOVEMBER 75. HE WAS CONVINCED MOPSS DID NOT MEET THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND HAS NOT RELENTED SINCE. HIS POSITION IS ADAMANT THAT MODERN TECHNOLOGY CAN RESOLVE THEIR REQUIREMENT AND OBTAIN THE NEED TO PROCESS AND INTERPRET THOUSANDS OF FEET OF FILM IN THE METICULOUS PROCESS OF DETECTING AND LOCATING POPPY FIELDS. SOLIS, WHO IS A PHYSICIST, AGREES, BUT IS REALISTIC ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT MOPSS IS THE ONLY TESTED AND PROVEN TOOL IN SPITE OF ITS LIMITATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, HE FEELS THAT A MORE SOPHISTICATED AND EXPEDIENT SYSTEM WOULD SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT MOPSS AND MOPSS COULD BE A FULLTIME VERIFIER OF DESTROYED FIELDS. SOLIS HAS UNOFFICIALLY EXPRESSED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT THE RETURN TO U.S. G. OF THE TWO NEW VANS IF A TRADEOFF WERE DESIRED. THE STEERING COMMITTEE FEELS THAT THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE MUCH PUBLICIZED ESTIMATE ON MEXICAN PRODUCTION OF HEROIN AS COMPARED TO THE KNOWN AMOUNT SEIZED AND DESTROYED IS CRITICAL AND PROVIDES ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACCURATE REMOTE SENSING. FYI: SOLIS INFORMS US THAT OF THEIR OWN VOLITION THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH DAEDALUS ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED, ANN ARBOR, MICH AND THEIR TECH REPS PROVIDED AG SENIOR STAFF SOME VERY ENCOURAGING, ALBEIT POSSIBLY EXAGGERATED, VIEWS ON THE DS-1260 DIGITAL MULTISPECTRAL SCANNER CAPABILITY WITH A MINIATURE COMPUTER INTEGRAL TO THE SYSTEM. THE COST IS APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION U.S. DOLLARS, NOT INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, TRAINING OR TECHNICIAN COSTS.

3. THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS HAVE PROGRESSED TO POINT WHERE FUTURE SPRAYING OF POPPY FIELDS WILL COMMENCE WHEN PLANTS BREAK THE GROUND AND HAVE NOT YET ATTAINED THE REQUIRED 65 PERCENT SURFACE COVERAGE REQUIRED FOR MOPSS DETECTION. IT SERVES THE U.S.G. INTERESTS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS THE MEXICANS TO SPRAY FIELDS REGARDLESS OF HEIGHT, COVERAGE OR MATURITY; AND MOPSS USE PRIMARILY AS A DETECTION TOOL DOES NOT APPEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSISTENT WITH THIS IDEAL OBJECTIVE.

4. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL: (A) AG SENIOR STAFF PLANS TO HAVE MOPSS OPERATE CONTINUOUSLY IN THE ZONE I AREA AT A REDUCED LEVEL BUT CONSTANTLY SENSING THE AREA FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE SUSPECTED GROWING CYCLE. (MISSION HAS SUBMITTED ENCOURAGING WEEKLY REPORTS OF THE RECENT UTILIZATION OF MOPSS PHOTO-NAVIGATORS, FLYING IN THE COVER ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT

AND ACTUALLY DIRECTING SPRAY SHIPS TO POPPY FIELDS BASED ON PHOTOMOSAIC INFORMATION.) ALL REPORTING DURING THE PRESENT ERADICATION CAMPAIGN UNDERSCORES THAT ZONE I REMAINS THE CRITICAL AREA WHEREIN LIES THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. SOLIS INDICATED THEY PLAN TO FLY SENSING MISSIONS TO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ZONES AS THE NEED ARISES BUT THAT THE CULIACAN BASE WILL REMAIN ACTIVE.

KB) SOLIS STATES ENG. VILLASANA IS STILL COMMITTED TO PREVIOUS AGREEMENT ON THE TRAINING OF CETENAL TECHNICIANS; HOWEVER, THE TRAINING COULD BE CONDUCTED IN CULIACAN IF THE NEW VANS PRESENTLY LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT THE NEW AG HANGAR FACILITIES ARE NOT OPERATIONAL. THE AG HIMSELF DECIDED ON PRIORITY FOR COMPLETION OF THE HANGAR; THEREFORE THE VANS LACK WATER, DRAINAGE, AND ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS.

(C) SPECTRAL DATA CORPORATION (SDC) TECHNICIAN GROTEWALD ESTIMATES THAT INSTALLATION OF SPLIT VERTICAL CAMERA MOUNTS WILL REQUIRE HIS DIRECT SUPERVISION AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE WHICH MAY TAKE THREE DAYS OR LONGER. THE TRAINING OF THE CETENAL TECHNICIANS WILL REQUIRE TWO TO THREE WEEKS. THE PRELIMINARY TESTING OF THE RETROFITTED MOUNTS REQUIRES FLIGHTS OVER KNOWN POPPY FIELDS WHICH MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN MONTH OF MAY TIMEFRAME. WE CANNOT PROVIDE A DEFINITE RESPONSE AS TO WHEN THE TESTS COULD BE PERFORMED OTHER THAN SOMETIME IN MAY OR JUNE.

5. RECOMMENDED ACTION: (A) THAT THE SDC CONTRACT BE EXTENDED FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 45 DAYS EFFECTIVE ON OR ABOUT 3 MAY 76, WITH TECH REP GROTEWALD IN COUNTRY TO COMMENCE TRAINING.

(B) THAT S/NM EXPLORE ON A PRIORITY BASIS THE FEASIBILITY OF DAEDALUS OR OTHER ELECTRONIC SCANNING SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE SOPHISTICATED POPPY DETECTION SYSTEM.

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